

the Other Press

March 10 1999

Thankful that this is our last week on the PC since 1976

Volume 23 Issue 21

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International Women's Day—A huge success

Zahra Jamal

It's not just about women's equality; it's also about celebrating the struggles all people must overcome when they are considered unequal due to their race, physical stature, sexual preference and all other differences which set us apart from what is considered the norm. The International Women's Day dinner at Douglas College turned out to be a huge success when women and men of different backgrounds and experiences came together to celebrate these differences. Together, everyone ate and enjoyed a feast of cooking from many different cultures. Then, guests sat back and enjoyed the rest of the evening while being entertained with powerful speeches, skits, and cultural dances.

It all started with the opening remarks of Chief Rhonda Larrabee from the Qayqayt First Nations (New Westminster Band). When asked to comment afterwards, she shared her views on the treatment of women in Western society compared to Native culture. Due to colonialism, she grew up without the luxury of being fully influenced by her Native culture, but still she observes that Native women are more honoured. In their bands, for example, men are in charge of going out and catching game to feed their children. It's true, Larrabee says, that women must work very hard at home while looking after their kids, but men still have to face the bitter North American climate and all sorts of dangers when hunting.

Another guest speaker was Viola Thomas, from the United Native Nations. Thomas shared a powerful speech as she expressed her bitterness and resentment towards the judicial system, which once buried and ignored the rights of First Nations peoples. She illustrated the absence of justice in the case of Helen Betty Osborn, who was brutally stabbed 57 times with a screwdriver. "And the court of this land would not consider appeal in the brutal death of that young indigenous woman," she exclaimed. In recognizing the oppression that other cultures in Canada had to undergo, she reminded everyone about slave labour of the Chinese working on our railway. "The Chinese were paid the lowest, the white guys were paid the highest. The white guys did not have to stick a dynamite stick in the canyon to blow up the rock, it was the Chinese men." She also



stressed how our differences should be "honoured rather than used as a tool to tear us apart and keep us apart."

Students from Positive Communications group (which is funded by Safer Campuses Committee and organized by the Women's Centre) performed skits to illustrate some of the differences and phobias people are faced with today. They addressed the myths and stereotypes revolving around homosexuality and sexual harassment. They also brought to our attention certain instances of discrimination regarding homosexuality happening here at Douglas College. "Stats show that for youth between the ages of 17-25, 60% of attempted suicides and 30% of successful suicides are gay related," explained the student.

Many people agreed that International Women's Day was about much more than women's equality. "It's not just about women's rights, it's about women's being," says Douglas College student Habon Farah. She shares her view of this event as she explains, "These people are here to remind us to never give up. This support system helps us see the light at the end of the tunnel; opportunities are out there for us to grab them no matter what type of woman we are. Whether we believe in God, we believe in Jesus, we believe in rocks, we're women."

As the evening got closer to its end, Unsung Heroine awards were

given out to members of the college who have played an active role in addressing equality issues. Among these award winners were student Peer Support worker Kathy Kirby, and Douglas College Student Union Vice President External, Amanda Wheeler. And even if one didn't win an award, they were bound to win a door prize, which outweighed the cost of the ticket itself. Dinner for two tickets at local restaurants, bed & breakfast on Galiano Island and cosmetics certificates were some of the prizes given out by generous contributors.

If you missed out on the event this year, don't miss out next year—especially if you want to win one of those door prizes!

Fire Causing heat in India

Zahra Jamal

On December 12 1998, Dilip Kumar, Indian actor and supporter of the controversial film *Fire*, found approximately 100 Shiv Sena party members protesting outside his home wearing only their underwear. Their reason: "It's the only language Kumar would understand."

A critically acclaimed and international award winning movie, *Fire* is one of the first movies to expose lesbianism in the Indian culture. The characters playing sisters-in-law have a sexual relationship to curb the pain of their husbands' negligence towards them.

Throughout December, when the movie was released, the Shiv Sena political party raided cinemas across the nation: ripping down posters, breaking windows and threatening cinema owners for not banning the lesbian-themed film.

These demonstrations were attempts to gain prominent media attention and diminish any prospect of women's liberalism gaining influence in India's male-driven society. The protestors even notified the media in advance. Shabana Azmi, who played one of the leading actresses, is a member of the Indian Parliament and said the protests were "part of an orchestrated campaign to keep the right-wing ideology in the news after a poor performance in recent elections."

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The Other Press is Douglas College's autonomous student newspaper. We've been publishing since 1976. The Other Press is run as a non-hierarchical collective, which means that if anything goes wrong, none will take the blame. Expect us to pass the buck.

The OP is published weekly during the fall and winter semesters and monthly [as a magazine] during the summer. When we manage to publish at all. In this case, we blame technology.

We receive our funding from a student levy collected every semester at registration, and from local and national advertising revenue. But, if you really want it, we'll give you your money back. Please, don't ask.

The Other Press is a member of the Canadian University Press (CUP), a cooperative of student newspapers from across Canada. We adhere to CUP's Statement of Common Principles and Code of Ethics—not that we claim to understand them, we just stick by them.

The Other Press reserves the right to choose what to publish, and what not to publish, but usually we print everything, unless it is racist, sexist or homophobic. If you have any quibbles with what we choose, maybe you should get your lazy butt down here and help. No, really. We can use the help.

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Devil's Advocate

A different take on March 5

Devil's Advocate

Women's Day. Bah humbug. If women had any more of a cakewalk through life, if the law didn't bend over backwards to accommodate them, if the rest of the world didn't bow to meet their commands, they would no longer be labeled "women" or "womyn" but Yahweh or Allah.

Perhaps a few years ago women could not get impartiality in the eyes of the law, but now the roles have been reversed and it is nearly impossible for a male to have fairness on his side before a judge.

The most common argument that women are "oppressed" is that men have the option of leaving a female after conception, and having the mother left with a child to care for. There is new law being written by women that will decimate any type of fair play established in the court system.

There are literally hundreds of cases of women suing men for breach of contract. The story usually goes that the men agreed to marry the women, and later on dumps her and marries someone else. There is no written contract, and a verbal contract usually will not suffice for a court of law, but somehow, these women win the lawsuits. There are no children involved, and the man did not get her pregnant and leave, he just didn't keep his promise of marriage.

Even if there are children involved, say if the man got the woman pregnant and then left, women still seem to be winning lawsuits.

In itself, this probably wouldn't be so bad if men could

countersue and have a hope in hell of winning.

There are four such countersuits that were tried, three laughed out of court, and one pending. The one pending goes thus:

A man and a woman were together for many years, and children were discussed early on and it was decided that they weren't wanted. The man wore a condom and the woman took birth control, so both parties were equally responsible for preventing a mishap like pregnancy to begin with. However, they both agreed that neither wanted a child at that time in their lives and that if such an unlikely occurrence would happen, the fetus would be aborted. Whether you believe in abortion or not is irrelevant here. The man's condom broke, and the woman forgot to take her pill for three days out of the week, and thus got pregnant. When she told her partner, he was under the impression that it would be aborted as discussed. She, however, changed her mind and decided to have the child. In itself, her changing her mind is fine, every human in the world should have that right, but it was her deception which is evil. Her partner had told her before that he wanted nothing to do with a child, and so he left the relationship, which is also fine, as he had made his intentions quite clear at the beginning. The woman, however, felt that he should pay for his half of the DNA and filed a paternity suit to get child support and, surprise surprise, won. The man was outraged. When he came before the judge, he told him of

their agreement, and the woman verified it. But the judge still decided in her favour.

An outrage! Somehow the same law that allows a woman to change her mind does not also allow for a man to change his. The verbal agreement that is held so dear in women defendant cases is thrown out the window when the defendant has a penis.

Feeling he was wronged, the man countersued the woman for breach of contract. He was not out to ruin her, and sued only for the amount of child support he would have to pay every month because of the woman winning her lawsuit. He stated, in the exact same manner as women do when they sue a man who promised to marry them and didn't, that the woman did not hold up her end of their agreement. He said that merely because he believed she was telling the truth when she said she would abort, he should not be held liable for the child she, on her own, decided to have. The case will probably never make it to court, and will probably be laughed out like the others.

And the old argument about judges giving custody to mothers more than fathers in divorce cases still applies, although this number is, theoretically, going down. But there was a case a few years back, where a prominent business man divorced his wife because she had become addicted to heroin and was selling their assets for cash, and he tried to get custody of his children for obvious reasons. The court, however, felt that the heroin addicted single

mother would be a much better parent than would a father with a stable home life and assets enough to provide necessities for his children.

And then there are the men's clubs. In Edmonton, Alberta about ten years back, there was a place called the Derrick club, which was a place for men to go and smoke cigars, watch hockey or football, and just generally be pigs and slobs together. Because that's what men do. Women, however, felt it was sexist for there to be a place where men could go, and women weren't allowed. They felt it was such a danger to their being, to their womanhood, that they lobbied until a court ruled that it was sexist for men to have a place where only men could go. In addition, males are not allowed into things like the Girl Guides for example, but females are allowed into Boy Scouts. Female doctors can examine a man without anyone else in the room, but a male doctor has to have a female present.

Why? Because all men will rape women. All men want nothing but hardcore anal sex and will stop at nothing to get it. All men are evil. All men want is to disgrace and defame females, and all males want nothing better than to destroy women.

Wake up. Instead of making people friendly laws, we make gender specific laws. Instead of having places for people to gather, we make places for men and women, or just women to gather. But don't dare say a woman is sexist.

Letter

A message from the DSU

At the President's Forum, held February 25, 1999, the college president, knowing the Students' Union executive were attending the Special General Meeting, chastised the Students' Union for not caring about students already high debt load and spoke against the tuition fee freeze, blaming it for the lack of funding in the post-secondary system.

We would like to take this opportunity to set the record straight. The tuition fee freeze that students in British Columbia have been benefiting from for the last three years has nothing to do with the lack of funding for post-secondary institutions. The culprit behind the lack of funding is the Federal Liberal government who has cut \$7 billion from funding to post secondary education in the last three years.

The BC Government is one of only two provincial governments in Canada that has not forced students to make up for the lost funding through sky high tuition fees; further, they are unique in being the only Provincial Government in Canada that is making education a priority and attempting to fund it adequately.

Unfortunately, no matter how much the BC Government invests in education, if the Federal Government is insistent on hacking and slashing the education budget, provincial governments are going to have less and less to work with each year.

Administrators, placing the blame on the only provincial government that is making education a priority, are not doing their research and are doing more harm to the fight for

accessible, affordable, fully funded public education.

The President's comments regarding the Educational Technology Fee (\$50) that the Student's Union refused to hold a referendum for, when we were willing to take our members' money for Performing Arts and Activities and Intramurals (\$9), are also equally uninformed.

As your Students' Union we have representation on as many college committees for which we can find interested bodies. Our representatives have consistently seen money wasted and misspent by these committees. An unproven, yet interesting, example comes from the Educational Technology Forum. Laptops were bought for faculty use but could not be accounted for – when an informal survey was done, by Students' Union staff, it appeared that the lap-

tops may have been misallocated to the administrators and people in the Computer Systems Department who have not only one desk computer per person but a laptop as well, the same kind as the missing faculty laptops. So, while administrators can have their choice of which computer to use, ten to fifteen faculty are huddled over one computer.

While the Ed Tech Forum is not the only place in the college where money appears to be wasted and misspent, this particular situation supports our mistrust in handing over lump sums of our members money to the college, who will not allow students any real input into how this money is spent.

The decision making process, for how fees are spent, is where the real difference lies

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What's next underground?

Security increased again

Annette Martin

Two Douglas College employees are the latest victims of the underground parking lot thieves at the New Westminster campus.

And Facilities and Security are fighting back.

Several items were stolen from a car while it was parked on the ramp between level P2 and P3 on March 2. The second break-in occurred on level P3 on March 8, but nothing was taken from the empty vehicle. Both incidents have been reported to the New Westminster Police.

Armando Fernandez, Security Supervisor, says, "We're taking steps to clarify the problem."

Meanwhile, College Facilities are working to increase safety and Pat Thomasson of college facilities says that the

next level of security will be bicycle patrols for both the underground and Carnarvon parking lots in New Westminster. "We'll try them for a week or so and see how it goes," she said.

The bike patrols will be conducted by Paladin employees and are expected to act as a visible deterrent factor.

But paying for additional security personnel with a zero increase in revenues means that something else will have to be dropped for lack of funding.

"There's always a payoff between section and security," said Thomasson.

However, administration is committed to campus safety and Fernandez is pleased at the response from the college.

"We'd already stepped up security, now we've stepped it up again," he said.

Pat Thomasson feels that another way to promote safety

is to have local officers from the New Westminster Crimewatch come into the college to reinforce awareness and prevention.

She encourages everyone to report any unusual incidents or behaviour on campus, especially in the underground parking lots. But she reminds students, staff and faculty not to approach anybody acting in a suspicious manner.

"If you see something strange," she said, "By all means keep watch, but don't challenge anyone. Instead, use the emergency phones down there [in the parking lot], and call security."

So, if you must use the underground parking at the New Westminster campus, leave nothing in parked cars. You may know that envelope or folder on the floor is empty, but thieves don't mind breaking your door or window to find out for themselves.



Potential theft victims lining up

Premier to resign?

Rumours follow raid

Annette Martin

Will British Columbia premier, Glen Clark, resign from office?

A Vancouver newspaper quotes unnamed sources as saying that Clark wants to step aside for the good of his family and the New Democratic Party.

But speculation about the premier's resignation could be nothing more than rumours fuelled by the unprecedented RCMP raid conducted on his home on the evening of Tuesday, March 2.

The RCMP says Clark is not under investigation for any criminal activity. But if he's not under suspicion, why the legal home invasion?

RCMP officers obtained search warrants for at least seven locations, including the premier's house, the government's gaming offices and the North Burnaby Inn. But what they were looking for has not been revealed, as the search warrants are still sealed.

The story revolves around illegal gambling, the approval in principle of a charity casino licence and renovations to the premier's home that may have been under billed.

One of the principal players, Dimitrios Pilarinos, a neighbour of Clark's family in East Vancouver, has been charged with running an illegal gambling house from a basement club at the North Burnaby Inn.

Not only is Pilarinos a neighbour, and sometime friend, of Premier Clark's, he has also done renovations on Clark's house.

Pilarinos and Steve Ng, owner of the North Burnaby Inn, applied for a charity casino licence, which they have been granted in principle, despite a unanimous rejection of the proposal by the local municipal council in December 1997.

"We were stunned. We wondered which part of 'no' they didn't understand," said Burnaby councillor, Derek Corrigan.

And a question of perception and ethics surfaces. Did Clark's friend, Dimitrios

Pilarinos, raise the topic of his casino application with the premier, and offer a renovation at a reduced cost deal?

Gordon Campbell, leader of the opposition party, thinks this is beginning to smell like a cover-up. "It's totally unacceptable to me," he said, "and I'm sure it won't fool anyone in British Columbia."

Mike Farnworth, Employment Minister, returned from a trip to Lima, Peru to become Clark's scapegoat, claiming that he took responsibility for granting approval in principle to the charity casino linked with the raid on the premier's home.

"The cabinet's decision was that it would be up to my discretion," he said.

But despite Farnworth stepping in front of the bullet, the televised performance of outraged innocence by Clark's lawyer, and a very convenient memo found in a timely manner by Clark's Principal Secretary, the rumours don't go away.

There are reports that some NDP members feel Glen
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Letter

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between the college's proposed Educational Technology Fee and our Performing Arts and Activities and Intramurals fees. The Ed Tech fee would be an ancillary fee collected by the Students' Union for the college. The decision making process, on how this money would be spent, would involve little to no student participation.

The Performing Arts and

Activities and Intramurals fees are collected to support student initiatives and activities in which all students can participate. Both of the fees will have total student participation in how the programs are run and how the money is spent and budgets for both fees will be presented at Annual General Meetings and be available to members in our offices upon request.

The College President is viewed by many members of the Representative Committee as a strong ally in the fight for accessible education. For this reason, we are shocked and dismayed by her comments at the President's Forum.

Amanda Wheeler

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Speaker Seth Klein

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

March 17, 1999 at 2pm in Student Union Cafeteria

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March 29, 1999 at 2pm in Student Union Cafeteria

For more information on any of the workshops, contact the Students' Union Office or call Amanda Wheeler at 527-5113

IWD@THC

Thomas Haney hosts artists

Annette Martin

Female artists and acappella singers took over Douglas College's Thomas Haney campus last week in celebration of International Women's Day.

The festivities were held on a Thursday—the busiest day of the week at the Maple Ridge site—and Sarah Hossack, the Student Union Vice President for Thomas Haney, estimated that over 300 people attended, including high school students and members of the community.

Booths were set up for female artists, entrepreneurs and historians with entertainment supplied by *Raw Silk*, an acappella singing duo.

"The celebration is planned like this to show the

community the wonderful, extraordinary things women have done here," said Hossack. "We want to show our female students that they can do anything they want, if they try hard enough."

Several female artists from the area, such as Christina Brown and Cindi Hoflin, showed their paintings, and Douglas College student Liz Bachinsky displayed explicit cartoons depicting her wry take on women's role in society.

"Some people found them a little offensive" said Hossack with an unapologetic giggle.

Raw Silk consists of two Douglas College students from the New Directions program who performed Gaelic songs, acappella style, to the delight of visitors enjoying the artwork, coffee and cookies.

Celebrating diversity

Annette Martin

Amazing events at Douglas College are not unusual, but graffiti boards in the library, drummers in the concourse and Barga in the SUB might surprise even the most blasé collegian.

These extraordinary happenings all take place during Diversity Week March 22-26, and are timed to highlight the United Nation's Day for the Elimination of Racism on March 21.

This is the second annual Diversity Week at Douglas. The first was started last year by a group of students, staff and faculty as an opportunity for the college community to celebrate diversity on campus. The aim is to focus attention on the issues of racism, sexism, homophobia and other "ism"s that divide a community and erode its sense of safety.

But what is diversity? How does it affect us? And is it still relevant in a politically correct world approaching the year 2000?

"These are the conversations that we need to be engaged in," says Tom Whalley, EASL instructor and a Diversity Week committee member. "Diversity Week gives the context for people who have questions that they might

otherwise have been too shy to ask. It provides a soft landing for curiosity."

A week rich in events has been planned to "think about it, talk about it, and take a stand against racism." There will be films, speakers, games, Grab-a-Java discussion groups, a scavenger hunt, a multi-cultural pot luck lunch, and displays focusing on issues associated with diversity.

Among the highlights are two screenings—one at David Lam and one at the New Westminster campus—of the inspiring, anti-racist PBS documentary *Not in Our Town*. This video documents efforts by the citizens of one small city to fight back against the bigotry in their midst.

Following the video, Betsy Bruyere, Coordinator of the First Nation's Student Centre, will moderate a discussion, using the medicine wheel as a way of

exploring issues raised in the video.

She points out that the issues are not all somber and serious. "Look at the name we gave to one of the events sponsored by First Nations Services—'Cultural Bingo!'" she laughs. "Humour has been our saving grace."

The week will end with a guest from the Ministry for Multiculturalism and Human Rights, Ron Carrier, speaking on the topic of human rights.

Tom Whalley's goal is to get everyone to participate in Diversity Week. "We want the whole college family involved," he says. "This isn't just the pet project of a special interest group."

Full details will be available in a calendar of events to be distributed this week at locations around campus. For further information contact Tom Whalley at 527-5582.

Premier, from page 3

Clark's reputation has been seriously damaged by the controversy over this potential conflict of interest.

And CBC reporter Jeff Davies reports that Clark may be offered a way out with dignity. He could fight to clear his name, let the investigation reach its conclusions in hopes of being vindicated, then resign with honour.

Meanwhile, the premier has asked the province's Conflict of Interest commission to review how the controversial gambling

licence was granted to his friend, Pilarinos.

Clark's lawyer, David Gibbons, insists that information in the search warrant will clear his client's name.

Even if that's correct, the premier must surely feel the "Night of the long knives" approaching as his party's popularity has fallen to 23% of decided voters, while the provincial Liberal Party has increased its popularity to 51% of decided voters.

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'Arcadia Falls'

Written by Daniel Arkin
Directed by Michael Watkins

Jen Swanston

Definition: 1. Arcadia, region of ancient Greece frequently chosen as background for pastoral poetry 2. A region or scene of simple pleasure and quiet whose people were distinguished for contentment and rural happiness.

It's perfect suburbia, or is it? This week's episode of *The X-Files* opens in a gated housing complex, complete with coded entry and hundreds of rules and regulations that must be

followed in order to survive. Mulder and Scully are called in to investigate several disappearances since the community was founded in 1991. In order to fit in they go undercover as Laura and Rob Petrie, prospective homeowners. What follows is a hysterical portrayal of what it might be like if Mulder and Scully were to get married.

Arcadia was a MOTW (Monster of the Week), and true to MOTW form, the actual monster wasn't all that scary, but the lead up was. As remarked upon in the past, since moving to Los Angeles slightly obscure, but familiar, faces appear throughout the ep. Mike,

also known as Jerry (Abraham Berrubi) from *ER*, plays a neighbour who tries to warn the Petries to fit in or else.

Along with a new location, *The X-Files* has new writers, unfortunately they don't seem to really have a good handle on who Mulder and Scully are. Time will tell if they will improve, though hopefully not at the expense of character development and plot lines.

Opinions

From now on, there will be six opinions from a range of *X-Files* viewers. First, here is a brief *X-Files* glossary. Newbies are those new to the show. As this is my column, I choose the newbies, and they are anyone who hasn't been watching as long as I have, which is from season one. For the purpose of these columns, newbies are people who have only been watching this season and have been catching up with the reruns shown on SPACE.

A Scullyist is someone who worships Scully and follows her character. A Mulderist is, well you figure it out. An Original Phile is some one who has been watching since, or almost since, day one. Shippers are



relationshipers who would like to see Mulder and Scully get together one day. A Focused Phile is someone who knows more about *The X-Files* than their own life.

Forced newbie: "Lousy special effects, but it really held my interest. There was some really good humour in it."

Voluntary Newbie: "Annoying community. Humorous. Typical MOTW...well of what I've seen so far."

Scullyist: "Mulder was a sexist ass. Shippers nightmare because

it was a parody of what their life would be like."

Mulderist: "Poophead. <Snort> The way that everyone predicted Scully would come out after the monster disappeared. They make a cute couple."

Original Phile: "Funny. I'm sure it made the shippers happy, but I would rather see some more disturbing material."

Focused Original Phile: "Great lines. Really funny; I'll have to watch again to get them all. It was great for Shippers."

Fast Forward:
'Dreamland I'

Written by Vince Gilligan, John Shiban, Frank Spotnitz

Directed by Kim Manners

Mulder switches bodies with a man from Area 51. Sound familiar? Well it is; 'Dreamland I' first ran on November 29 just four weeks after season six began. February sweeps really are over now, reruns for the next little while. If we have to have reruns, they could at least run some of the older eps that don't get to television that often, or one of the classics.

West Point Grey  Community Centre

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Accepting resumes for Summer leader positions 'til Mar. 31.

Kayaking in BC Slide Show

Monday, May 3 7:30-9:30pm Fee: Free



Indoor Coed Soccer (16+ years)

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Wednesdays, April 14-June 30 8:00-10:00pm Fee: \$38 or \$5.00 drop-in

21 8:00-9:30pm Fee: \$68 or \$120/couple

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Fire continued from cover

The movie showed countless scenes of the *male* butler jacking off in front of the grandmother who could not talk. In another extremely disturbing scene, Shabana Azmi is left to burn when her sari (traditional Indian dress) accidentally catches on fire. Her husband, who learns about her unlawful activities, simply watches it happen, then carries his mother away to protect her from the flames. In spite of these events, the focus of the riots still fixated upon the lesbian theme. As these women explore their homosexuality, they become disobedient towards their husbands and less needy of their approval. The concept of this female independence is something that any male would strive to guard against if he's living in India - "a man's world."

Joined by 400 women, Deepa Mehta, director of the film, picketed at a theater in New Delhi to resume the screenings. "Lesbian relationships," she said, "are part of the Indian heritage. The film exposes the hypocrisy and tyranny of the patriarchal family, the issue of women's sexuality, and makes a strong statement about women-to-women relationships. It is the responsibility of the government to demonstrate that citizens' fundamental rights cannot be trampled upon by criminal acts

of violence. The constitution guarantees everyone [the] right to expression."

Gay activist Ashok Row Kavi explains "Our criminal laws on homosexuality were bequeathed to us by the British, who had a Christian view of things. Hinduism, on the other hand, defines sex as one of the three ways of attaining salvation. Hinduism does not run away from sexuality and does not pass judgement on people who have different preferences." Standing naked in front of someone's house and using violence to get what they want is not condoned by Hindu philosophy, whereas lesbianism is tolerated by it. This is a clear sign of hypocrisy being displayed by the activists.

Former Douglas College student Dharmesh Patel says the movie is an "abomination of what a family is suppose to be." He feels that traditional India is too far behind in terms of civilization and this movie was too big a leap. "You must have gradual change for ideas to become accepted. Abrupt events always cause public outrage. That is why the first man to say the earth was round was thrown in jail. The film makers of this movie have jumped several years ahead and expected everyone in India, the most traditional country in the world, to accept it."

As for the sexual scene of both women, the president of the Shiv Sena group said, "This scene is a direct attack on our Hindu culture and civilization. We do all these things according to our social system, where it is done between a man and a woman after marriage—but the film is trying to show something that deviates from this line and it will send a wrong message to society."

Shiv Sena is a right-winged ultra nationalist Hindu party. As Azmi mentioned, this is why they met little difficulty when they demanded the censorship board ban *Fire*. Shabana Azmi was joined by a group of filmmakers, artists, and human rights activists when appealing to the Indian Supreme Court to resume screenings of the movie. No progress has been made so far.

Fire played to a full house for three weeks upon its release all across the nation.



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Saturday March 13 1999

3pm, @ the UBC Pit Pub, Student Union Building
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Bust Loose! Holidays...It's the time of your life!

Womyn's Supplement

Random acts of sexuality

Gweny Wong

In order for Asian womyn to make successful informed choices about their sexual health, information needs to be widely accessible and available. To facilitate this process and have some fun at the same time, Asian Society for the Intervention of AIDS [ASIA] has decided to provide an opportunity for Asian womyn and friends to get together for a womyn-only dance event titled *Random Acts of Sexuality*.

Denise Tang, Program Coordinator of ASIA, says that in putting the dance together, they are using a variety of strategies taken from popular theatre, where safer sex information will be provided in an entertaining and fun way throughout the entire evening. Examples include satirical skits where skilled volunteers act out scenarios and performers roam around the club giving out informative packages.

Random Acts of Sexuality is organized by the Asian Womyn's Outreach Project, a project of ASIA. The goal of the project is to empower Asian womyn to

achieve wellness in their lives. "We need to make informed choices about our physical, emotional, social and spiritual health," explains Tomiye Ishida, ASIA's Asian Womyn's Outreach Educator. "This event is innovative for its interactive strategies in getting the message of safer sex across." Paulina Tin, also a planning committee member of the event, continues, "This event is different from workshops or other on-stage entertainment. Information is presented in a way to start us all thinking about what we need to do to take care of ourselves and to keep ourselves healthy."

This event promises to deliver safer sex information in a fun and entertaining way. There'll be tasty fortunes, sensual delights, (of course) random acts of sexuality, door prizes to pamper yourself...HIV intervention has never been so titillating! The evening will be innovative and interactive as a celebration of healthy sexuality for all womyn, in addition to the main goal of empowering Asian womyn to maintain or achieve greater sexual well-being and

health in their lives. As a community development and health promotion initiative, ASIA encourages informed choices and access through partnerships with the broader womyn's community.

So, advocate to all your Asian womyn friends, acquaintances, students, teachers and staff members to go [maybe they'll think to take you?]. I bet this evening will be exhilarating and heck, who knows, perhaps you will catch some glimpses of me there, since I do have a job promoting healthy sexuality.

Random Acts of Sexuality: A womyn-only dance event promoting healthy sexuality for Asian womyn and their friends will be at Club 23, 23 West Cordova, on Saturday, March 13, 1999. The event will begin at 8 pm. Tickets are \$5 at Little Sister's, Harry's Off Commercial and East End Book Company. For further information on the event or on ASIA's support and outreach programs, call Denise Tang at 669-5567.

FAT GRRRLS!!!!

Gweny Wong

So many of us are very politically aware of the myriad of liberation issues that are out there. Did anyone know and realise that being fat is considered a social crime?

Here are some answers from fat, fully fleshed womyn that you've always wanted to know, but were afraid to ask.

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM YOUR NON-FAT ALLIES & WHAT DO YOU WANT THEM TO KNOW?

- What we want from everyone is to be accepted for who we are and not to be made fun of by others like family and friends. Fat womyn feel the hurt more when it's someone they know like a brother, uncle, aunt, grandmother, cousin who does the insulting.

- We want to be respected and to have our needs considered. We want to be able to talk about who we are in terms of what our size and life is, not to be shut up by false reassurances and nutritional advice. We also want you to stop talking about how we're too fat and using fat-phobic language.

- We want people to stop expecting lower end fat womyn to pass. Responses such as *oh, you're not really fat* are totally unacceptable when we are calling ourselves fat. Don't assume that we are feeling guilty, hate ourselves or whatever over how we look and that we are trying to lose weight. Fat womyn do not want to hear how it is fine for us to be fat but those allies would never be happy with being so big. What this is telling us is that allies are working hard not to be like us, and not to be so surprised when we are offended by your behaviours.

- Fat womyn want to be hugged, loved, kissed, and cuddled up to like any other person. They are not blocks of wood that don't require your affection or loving attention since even many plants receive kindness, love, attention and good conversation. Fat womyn want to be recognised as existing on this planet and not to be ignored as gross, unappetising scenes of huminity. We want you to learn that there is such thing

continued page 8

C O Q U I T L A M C E N T R E

Starving Student DISCOUNT NIGHT

thurs
Apr 1

To make life a little easier, Coquitlam Centre is offering Douglas College students, staff and faculty a 'student discount shopping night'.

Just show your student ID card to participating retailers when you shop the first Thursday of each month from 5pm to 9pm.

List of participating stores available at Customer Service, South Mall.

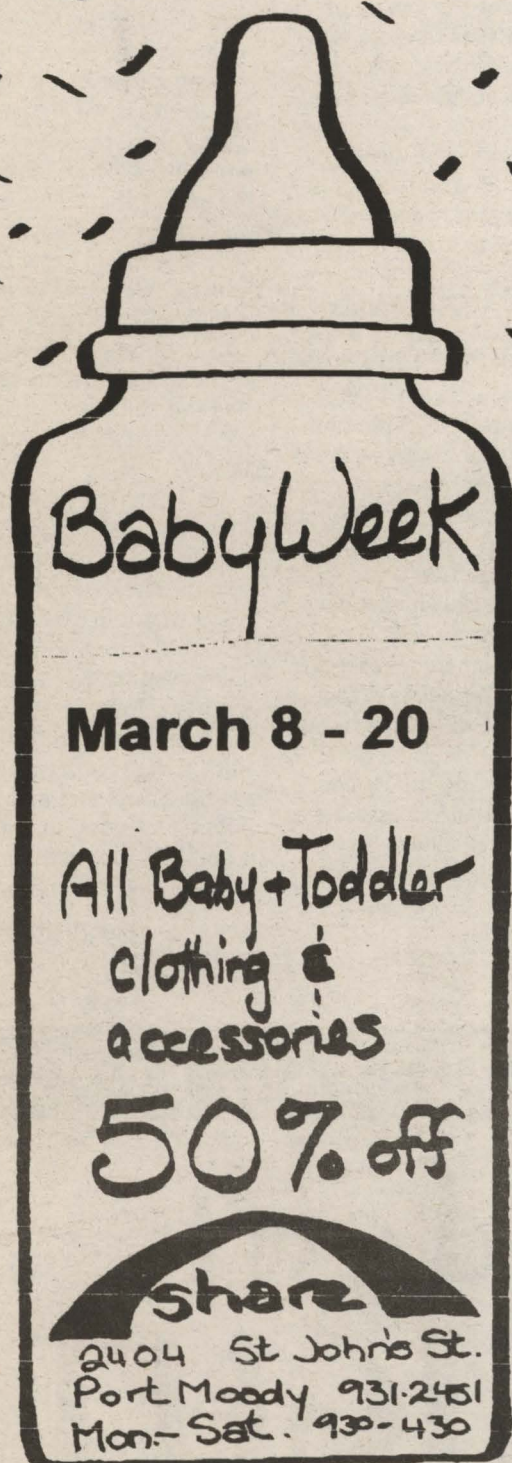

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Kazari Boutique	10% off regular priced merchandise
OHM Drycleaners	20% off
Alive Health Centre	15% off regular priced merchandise

Discounts not valid with any other promotions. Offers good at Coquitlam Centre only.

Fat womyn speak out continued from page 7



as being oppressed for being fat, what it's like to be fat, and to confront all your fat phobias within yourselves.

- We want you to remember how big we really are and to stop making things so small, narrow or unmoveable. Much like the fact that fast food restaurants often have booths that assume a fixed size, and tables with chairs that don't move further apart to accommodate a larger size. We don't need for our breasts to be sitting on top of the table as if the table was there to hold them up.

- We like ourselves as we are and do not need non-fat people to tell us otherwise. We want you to examine your own internalised fat-hatred and to know that we might love you a lot, but that we are not your dumping grounds for size acceptance, fat intake, and anything else you don't like. We don't want to be stared at and we don't want to hear that you'll die if you don't lose 6 lbs.

- Fat womyn are sexual beings, we love to have sex with all kinds of people in all kinds of positions. We love being sexual, the sensuality of our bodies and the way our bodies flow, move, jiggle, wiggle, and flap.

- Fat womyn appreciate that there are allies who actually fight for fat liberation issues and don't require education on being fat. We like that some of you even question the standards of beauty in the dyke community and work actively to dispel those stereotypes.

- Fat womyn want to be able to sit on all the allies who encourage us to sit on their laps and we're intimidated because we don't want to squish them.

We want our allies to either mind their own business or to ask us out on dates if allies are so interested in the bodies of fat womyn.

- We want you to understand about *thin privilege* in the same way that allies need to understand about heterosexual, white, adult, middle or owning class privileges—we want you to realize what allies take for granted is a real pain for fat womyn.

- We want to be able to find good femmy, non-matronly clothes in our sizes.

- Don't be afraid to touch us—fat isn't catching!

- Being fat is not less healthy than being thin.

- Most importantly, DON'T tiptoe around the fact that we're fat. We're not as sensitive as you might think about it. If you feel uncomfortable about inviting us to participate in what you might think is a strenuous activity or something that you think we might not enjoy, invite us anyway. Give us the opportunity to decide for ourselves.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT BEING FAT?

- My size! Feeling powerful, immovable, and comfortable with my body.

- My power within.

- I like the political education I get from being fat. Fatness caused me to get hip about feminism earlier than if I was skinny. An almost universal hatred forced me to be strong. I like how my fat acts as a filter and some womyn and men blow me off because of my size—their loss. I use being fat as a litmus test for bigots. Gotta love that.

- I like big tits and ass, curvy hips and meaty thighs, round face and soft skin. I love cleavage. I love to jiggle.

- More of me to tattoo and pierce.

- Softness.

- My large and beautiful breasts. Round.

- I like being large, powerful, sensuous, heavy, sexy, intimidating, inviting, enfolding, warm, extremely soft, able to stare down big creeps, able to take up a lot of room and annoy people, able to be a tender pillow for a sad friend, or soft playground for an exploring lover. I love being in bed with a lover, and being fat. As a fat womyn, I am agile, graceful, and very flexible! I have almost 300 lbs. on my side. I like

annoying the health workers who think I should have high blood pressure, a dangerously fast heartbeat, diabetes, and high cholesterol—ha!

- I like posing for incredible photos, painting life-size full body portraits, and walking around my apartment topless with the shades up! I like being the fattest person on the beach, the only one who can go into the ocean without a wetsuit.

- I don't get cold very easily—lots of insulation. My lap is very comfortable for children and cats to sit on. I feel that my size makes me less vulnerable. Best of all, I am totally buoyant! When swimming, I don't even have to tread water to stay afloat, while my skinny friends have to kick and paddle constantly. Ha, ha!

- The freedom of letting my body decide what size it's going to be. Not worrying about constant diets and where and what I can eat. I'm also a big scary bitch!

- I'm warm, and men don't fuck with me anymore. I take up space, and people stay father away from me.

- Being and looking stronger... Although skinny womyn have a lot of *privilege*, I like that I'm not treated as someone who is frail or weak. That I take up space in the world means I demand it. Also, having big curves feels like a big part of my femininity.

- I like saving on hot water bills—because I use less water in the tub than my skinny neighbours]. I like that I float really well. I like saying "Biggest butt gets the front seat," and not getting any argument.

- Feeling strong and grounded. Being able to get flogged a lot. Feeling powerful and nurturing having a lover grab or bite into my flesh and swoon.

- Non-conformity. Never needing a two-ply jacket. Resonating strength. Cuddly in a hailstorm.

- Lots of presence. No one doubts I'm there. People listen. I don't get hassled on the street like my thin friends do. I intimidate men—heh, heh, heh].

- The sense of having a large enough body to contain all that is within my mind and spirit. I feel I'm just the right size for who I am—and that's BIG.

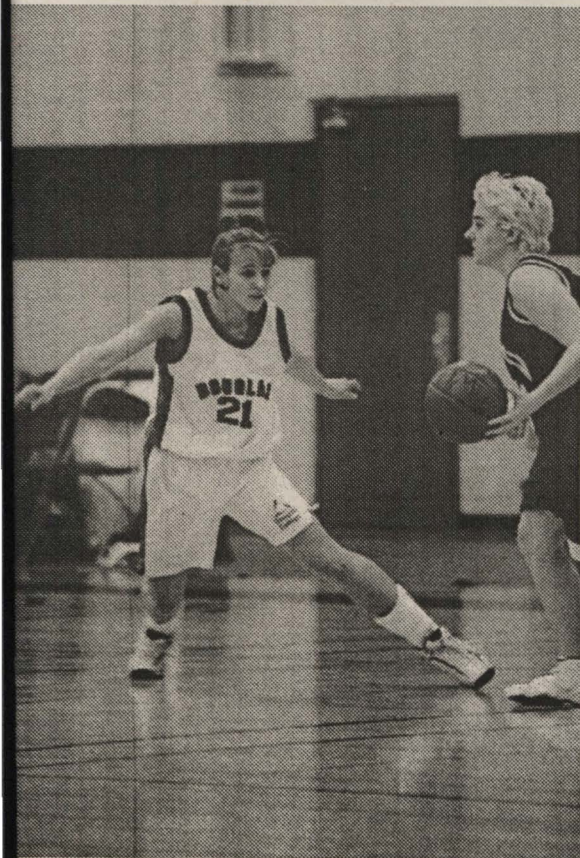
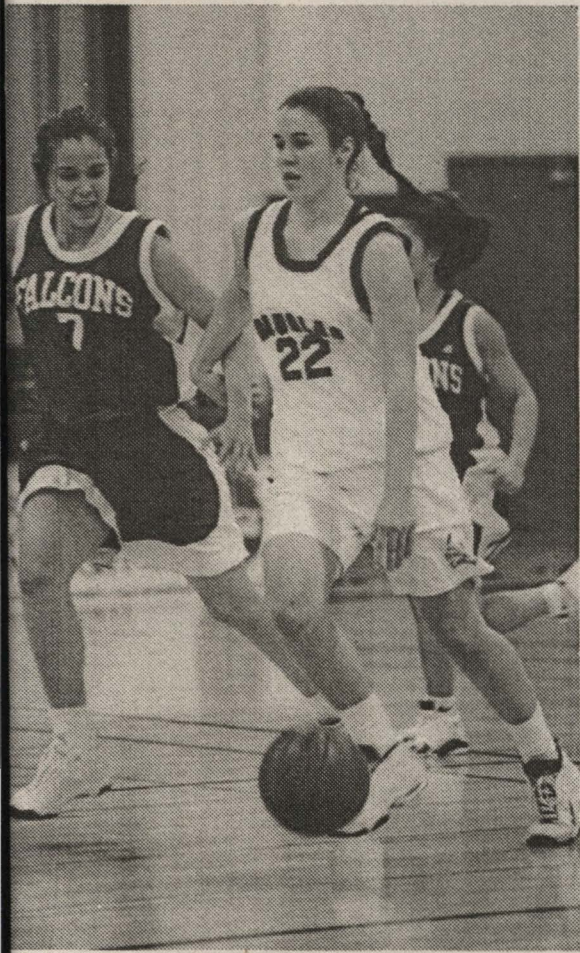
ELECTIONS FOR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO COLLEGE BOARD

Elections will take place to elect 1 male and 1 female representative to the Douglas College Board. The election will be on March 17th and 18th. Polling stations will be available at all 3 campuses. The polls will open at New Westminster, David Lam and Thomas Haney Centre from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm on March 17th. On March 18th, polls will be open from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm.

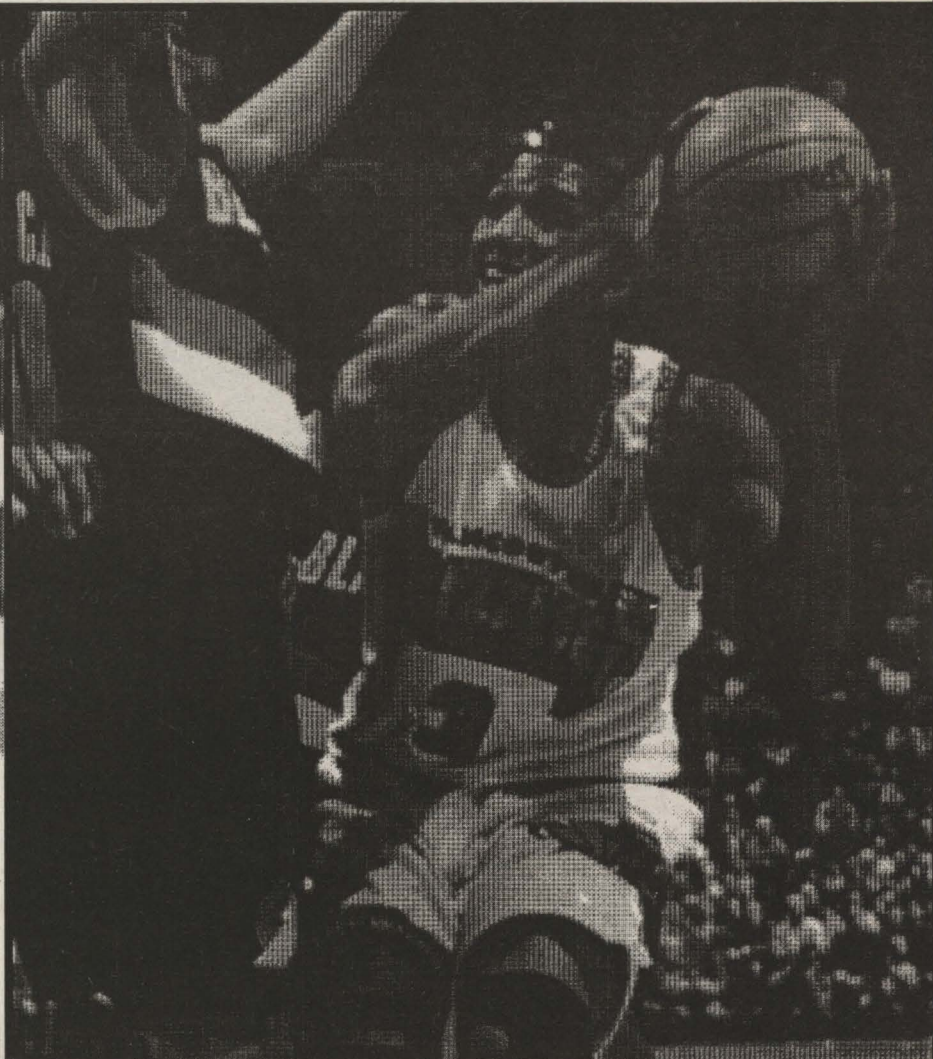
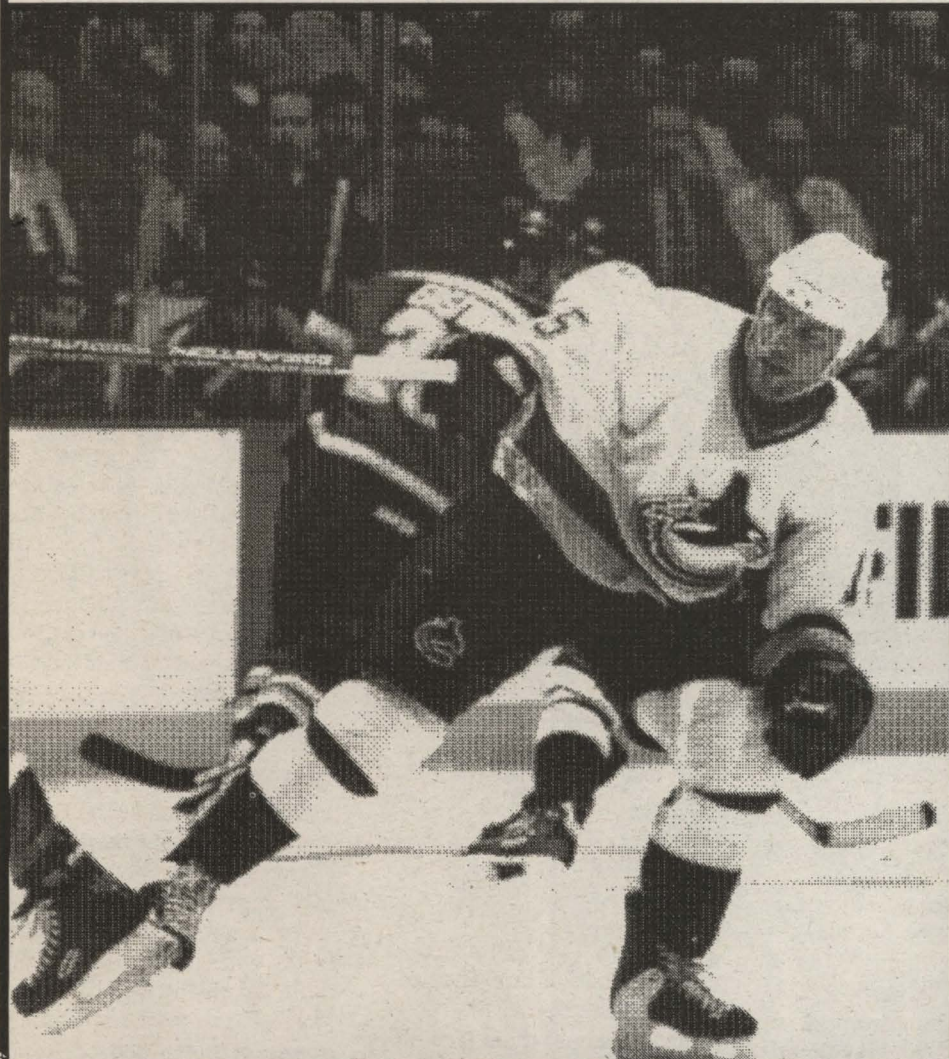
WHERE WILL STUDENTS VOTE?

Students who are taking courses at more than one campus must vote at the campus where they are taking more than 50% of their courses. Students who are registered in courses evenly split between campuses and who take classes at New Westminster will vote at the New Westminster campus. Students who are registered in courses evenly split between campuses and take courses at David Lam but not at New Westminster will vote at David Lam. Student's polling station is determined by the registration in courses as shown on the Douglas College Student Information System.

The best photos of the BCCAA basketball playoffs, brought to you by David Tam



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A podium finish

Hamish Knox

The Royals rebounded on Saturday to send their coach, Richard Williams, and their senior players out with a win.

Playing in the bronze medal game for the second year in a row, Douglas began ripping into their opponents, the University College of the Fraser Valley (UCFV) Cascades from the opening tip. Employing a punishing man-to-man defense, the Royals forced Fraser Valley into 13 turnovers in the game; however, only 2 of those turnovers came off of the DC full court press.

Kim Nieszner, a key component in the Royals' game, was in foul trouble early, picking up two by the fifteen minute mark of the first half. Coach Richard Williams kept Nieszner in the game for much of the first half, but did have every one of his players in the game with 5:30 to go, giving his bench players important playoff experience. "Everybody contributed," said Coach Richard Williams after the game. "Everybody who came off the bench played well."

Once again, the Royals were out-rebounded on their own end, often giving the Cascades three attempts at the basket every time down the floor. Not to be outdone, Douglas dominated the offensive glass, led by player of the game Audrey Curran. After attempting only two against Langara, DC



was on fire from 3-point range, only missing one shot from beyond the arc in the first half.

The Royals kept up the pressure all the way to the final buzzer of the half, going into the locker room leading 27-19. "We held them [the Cascades] to 19 points," said Coach Williams. "That's the best defense we've played all year."

The game appeared to be taking a turn for the worst for the Royals, when, with 18 minutes left to play, Nieszner picked up her third personal foul. It seemed that the referees had turned on Douglas over the break, as any Royals player breathing in the direction of a Cascade would draw a foul, yet when Curran was routinely mugged by three Fraser Valley

players in the lower post, nothing would be called. With 13:26 left to play, Coach Williams had seen enough and was whistled for a technical foul, despite the obvious lack of impartiality on the part of the officials.

Douglas was up 55-49 with 57 seconds to go when the Cascades began fouling in an attempt to get back in the game. The Royals' free throw shooting, however, was with them on Saturday as they calmly paraded to the foul line and sank their shots, winning 58-52 and capturing their second straight bronze medal.

"There's only two teams that won their last game [of the year]," said Coach Williams after the game. "I told them [the team] that if they ever get this chance again, in anything, that they need to seize the moment."

After the game, Coach Williams announced that he would not be back to coach the Royals next year, but he was optimistic about the team's future. "I'm not coming back next year, so it [winning the game] was a nice one to go out on. Apparently Audrey's [Curran] coming back, Carrie's [Rogers] is coming back, Tammy's [Neufeld] coming back, they have a new coach and who knows where that person will be able to take them."

Regicide in semis

Hamish Knox

Friday's game against Langara in the BCCAA semi-finals should have ended in a Douglas victory, but the little things that had bothered the Royals all year rose up to cut them down at the worst time.

The tone for the game was set right after the opening tip as DC's Audrey Curran won the toss to teammate Carrie Rogers, who took the ball to the Falcons' basket and missed the lay-up. Langara wasted no time in running out to a 12-5 lead after the Rogers miss, slashing through the 2-3 zone that Douglas was using and dominating the Royals on their own boards. DC was also hurt by its free throw shooting in this game, making only one of its first four. If the Royals had made their free throws, the result of the game would certainly have changed.

With both teams employing smothering full court presses, offense in this half was limited to easy lay-ups and outside jump shots. The Royals pulled off their press with 11:30 left in the first half to rest themselves for half-court defense. "It [the press] wasn't very effective," said Coach Richard Williams after the game. "That's been a pattern in our previous losses of late. People have just caught up to it and it's a combination of them [the other teams] being schooled in how to break it and maybe us not moving our feet. The main strategy was to conserve some energy so we could come down and play half court defense because we

needed to bump them [Langara]."

Besides not being able to hit their free throws and being pushed around on the inside, the Royals' shooting deserted them in the first half, while Langara continued to dominate in the paint and from outside. DC put up a very intense final two minutes to draw within four, down 36-32 at half time.

Langara came out of the locker room flying, going on a 6-0 run to start the second half, forcing Coach Williams to call for time and calm his team down. Unfortunately, the first ten minutes of the half belonged to the Falcons, who opened up an 11-point lead with 11:30 left to play.

With her team down and facing staying home from the Nationals for the second straight year, recently crowned BCCAA player-of-the-year Rogers took over the game. Scoring mostly on drives to the basket, Rogers and her teammates bit and clawed back into the game, making the Langara coach call timeout, leading 60-55. At this point both the DC bench and the Douglas supporters were on their feet chanting, "Defense! Defense!" whenever the Falcons had the ball. Both teams exchanged buckets down the stretch, with Rogers drawing the Royals to within three with two minutes left in the game, but couldn't bring her team all the way back as Langara finished Douglas off with free throws, winning 72-62. "The girls showed a lot of heart coming back the way they did," said Coach Williams after the game. "Everybody wanted it and we were well prepared."

Player of the Game: Carrie Rogers



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waiting
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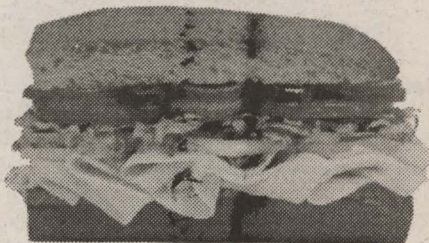
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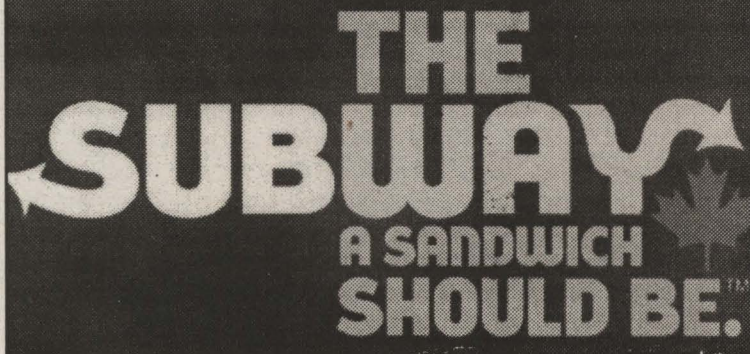
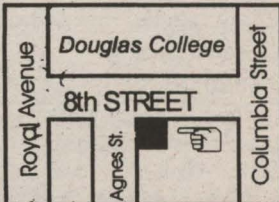
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Single mom, Douglas College student speaks out

Renee Marlatt

I was walking down the street when two womyn in their mid thirties passed by me. Their eyes scanned mine then rested on my stomach. The one uttered to the other what a shame it was that

so many babies are having babies. I felt degraded and humiliated at a time in my life when I was supposed to feel wonderful and proud; this is what being a teen parent is about. Unfortunately, it got worse once the baby arrived.

I am a single mother of a beautiful two-year-old girl. I work two part-time jobs and attend college full-time, yet I still walk down the street hearing comments about *welfare moms milking the system*. Rather than putting young parents

down and blaming society's problems on them, communities and individuals need to help support and encourage them to continue their education and build goals towards an enriched life. If I do not hear *welfare mom* comments I usually hear

the flipside from family and friends; apparently I am causing my daughter psychological damage by having her in daycare full-time.

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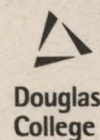
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From March 15 to April 26

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Students: \$48 Drop in \$5
Staff: \$60 Drop in \$6
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FREE SESSION
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Mar. 8 2-3:30 pm

David Lam campus

Beginners

Every Monday
From 5:30-7 pm
In Pinetree Gym 3
From March 15 to April 19

Intermediate

Every Tuesday
From 4:30-6 pm
In Pinetree Gym 3
From March 16 to April 20

Cost

Students: \$24 Drop in \$5
Staff: \$30 Drop in \$6
General: \$36 Drop in \$7

FREE SESSION
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Mar. 8 5:30-7pm

For more information call 527-5736



Classifieds

Lost

Heavy silver and gold bracelet. A gift from my children. Please call 936-2073 or turn in to the College Security desk. Thank you.

Accommodations

For Rent: Large modern ground level suite in executive Port Moody home. Private entrance. Ideal for student. Non-smoking, No pets. \$600 including utilities and cable. 961-5559.

For Sale

Snowboard and speakers for sale. K2, fat bob, 149 inches w/Oxygen bindings and Aigner UPS hardshell boots, size 11 \$200 obo. 2x10 Cerwin-Vega subs, \$100 takes them. Jason 515-4049.

I am selling a Paven 24 pin dot matrix printer. It prints in black and white. Book and cables are included. \$25 obo. Call Jenn @ 313-4030 leave a message.

Large freezer for sale, good working condition. \$100 or best offer, removal charges for the purchaser's account. Come see it, Activities Room 317, Centre for Sport, Recreation and Wellness.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer at the New West Youth Centre and make a difference in the life of a teen. Call 526-1938 or drop-in Wed-Sat 6pm-11pm at 830-Sixth Street. Ask for Izzy.

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Announcements

Afraid of speaking in public? Come to Douglas College Toastmasters, 7pm Thursdays, Douglas College, New Westminster, call Kathy at 525-6748 for info.

Wanted: Students of all ages, origins, genders and sexualities, to join the Pride Collective. Must be queer-friendly! Meetings 4:30 pm Mondays in Room 110 of the Student Society Building. e-

mail: e@dcss.douglas.bc.ca confidential voicemail: 527-5474 ext 4550.

Personals

My girlfriend and I are looking for other couples or single females for safe, fun times. I'm 5'7, 140lbs., dark hair, brown eyes. She's 5'6, 130lbs., red hair, brown eyes, full lips, 38D breasts and bi! Please respond to the Other Press, Box 721

Looking for....

18-year-old female with strong vocal skills seeks band members to form a pop group to send out demo tapes to major record labels. Goal: Fame, Fortune and Self-Expression. Serious inquiries only, please. Have to be hard-working and self-motivated not to mention can either sing very well or play musical instruments. Contact: cmngecolea@yahoo.com